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MEDICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS' BASIC KNOWLEDGE, OPINIONS AND RISK ABOUT NANOTECHNOLOGY IN SRI LANKA

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This study examined the students' understanding of the normative connections between key concepts of nanotechnology in nanomedicine and underlying biological principles that are critical for an in-depth understanding of its therapeutic application on 21st centuary Medical field. We have examined randomly selected students' ideas and views by using a structural questionnaire with respect to understanding of nanotechnology relationships at Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, University of Rajarata, Sri Lanka. A total of 80 Medical Faculty students participated in this study and completed written questionnaire on nanomedicine. Findings from this study revealed that there is a strong positive response on basic nanoscale, but they are poorly knowledgeable on nanotechnology based on therapeutic application. Almost all the students had a good knowledge on nanoscale but not on the relationship between nano and nanomedicine. Specifically, students were challenged to demonstrate an integrated understanding of the nanomedicine therapeutic application, almost 58% of them were unable to give an example for it, and also some students struggled to explain it. The risk what we found from this study is next generation treatment with nanoparticles knowledge is very low and needs to be uplifted in the medical curriculum. Although outcome is preliminary in nature, the results provide a cause for concern over the status of nanotechnology education in Sri Lanka which needs to be uplifted.